



Fair Political Practices Commission

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NEWS ADVISORY

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FPPC Considers Changing Rules for Combining And Reporting Contributions from Certain Sources

The Fair Political Practices Commission on Friday (January 20) will consider staff proposals to clarify rules for “aggregating” – or combining – certain contributions and independent expenditures made from different sources and how those payments should be reported on disclosure forms.

The FPPC will also consider a number of other issues, including enforcement cases and a proposed regulation relating to a new ethics training requirement for many local government agencies across California.

The commission’s regular monthly meeting begins at 9:45 a.m. in the FPPC's eighth-floor hearing room at 428 J St. (Fifth and J Streets) in Sacramento.

California’s Political Reform Act establishes various monetary thresholds for disclosure purposes. Under long-established policy and existing regulations, the FPPC provides that in certain circumstances, contributions or independent expenditures from different sources must be combined and considered as coming from the same source. For example, if an individual makes a contribution from his or her personal funds and then makes an additional contribution from his or her solely owned business entity, in most circumstances those contributions must be combined for purposes of the Act’s contribution thresholds.

Previously, these “aggregation” rules applied mostly to the major donor reporting requirements. But they also now apply to state campaign contribution limits approved by voters with Proposition 34 in 2000.

FPPC staff members are recommending that the commission reexamine its current rules – and consider possible changes – to ensure that the regulations provide clear guidance for disclosures relating to campaign contribution limits as well as major donors. (See agenda item #19.)

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In other action, the commission will consider a proposed regulation relating to a new law requiring local government agency ethics training.

On October 7, 2005, the Governor signed Assembly Bill 1234 (Ch. 700, Stats 2005). AB 1234 requires, among other things, that all local agencies that provide compensation, salary, or stipend to, or reimburses the expenses of, members of a legislative body must provide ethics training to local agency officials by January 1, 2007, and every two years thereafter. The bill further provides that if an entity develops criteria for the ethics training, the FPPC and the Attorney General's office must be consulted regarding the proposed course content.

Proposed regulation 18371 would set out the scope of the commission's role in connection with the local ethics training required by the bill. The proposed regulation would also implement this role by defining "consultation" for purposes of consulting with the "Commission" in connection with the training. (See agenda item #21.)

The agenda and supporting memoranda and materials are posted on the FPPC's website at www.fppc.ca.gov. Just click on "Agendas" on the left side of the home page and go to "Current Agenda." The agenda is posted on the website 10 days before the meeting, and letters commenting on agenda items are also posted when received.

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